

1958

Canadian National Championship Corduroy Enduro

by RON JACKSON



Grand Champion, Clarence Wise, Triumph TR 6. Sidecar Team, George Davidson and John Holywell, Matchless.

Photos by Peter Jackson

The '58 Canadian Enduro Championships were decided at the Corduroy Enduro, a rugged 400 mile, two-day event, held on the week end of September 27th and 28th. Organized by the British Empire Motor Club, the run was laid out in the scenic Haliburton Highlands 100 miles north east of Toronto.

The 1958 Grand Champion and winner of the traditional Corduroy "Log" and Canadian Championship Trophies was Clarence Wise of Zanesville, Ohio. Riding a Triumph TR 6, this king-size "stump jumper" displayed great skill and stamina in returning a score of 924, despite the rock strewn trails and soggy beaver swamps. Runner-up was last year's winner, Leroy Hartman of Plymouth, Mich. Roy scored 879 riding a 500 c.c. BSA single and consequently received best opposite class award.

Lightweight Champion was Jack Pine winner John Penton of Lorain, Ohio, riding a 175 c.c. NSU. John's score was 863. The medium weight championship went to Bill Sharpless of Toronto, who scored 810 riding a 500 c.c. Matchless. Winner of the event in 1955, Bill was the top Canadian in the year's run. Marvin Cutler of Dearborn, Mich. won the heavyweight championship riding a 600 c.c. Norton with a score of 832.

The run consisted of two loops, both starting and finishing at Gold Rock Lodge

near Coboconk, Ontario. This made it possible to use the lodge as headquarters throughout the week end, an arrangement which contributes to the unique character of the Corduroy Run.

The weather was ideal, clear and cool with sparkling sunshine to make the most of the brilliant fall colours. This was particularly appreciated since it was the first time in six years that we have managed to avoid rain in large doses.

First man away on Saturday morning was Gilbert Hyden of Detroit who left sharp at 8.01. He was followed at one minute intervals by the remainder of the entry of 52 solos and one staunch sidecar. Of Saturday's total mileage of 240, 150 miles had to be covered before lunch. The morning included several choice sections of trail (on which the required average was 24 m.p.h.) connected by somewhat smoother stretches of gravel and pavement, where the schedule called for 30 m.p.h. or 36 m.p.h. The Irondale River, seen in the accompanying pictures, was one of two water hazards which had to be crossed before lunch. All these factors took their toll, with the result that 19 riders did not set out after lunch.

The afternoon leg of 90 miles was a little easier and considerably shorter so only three riders dropped out before returning to Gold Rock.

After reaching the lodge, many made

use of the Finnish steam bath located on the property to dissolve their aches and pains. This was followed by a delicious turkey dinner and showing of motorcycle films.

The results of Saturday's run showed a very close battle for first place between Wise and Penton with 23 marks lost and Hartman at 24. In 4th. place was Sharpless (49) hard pressed by Smith (50) and Cutler (51), Craig (54) and Slater (55).

Only 21 riders faced the starter on Sunday morning. The starting order of the previous day had been reversed so that first man away was Marvin Cutler.

Sunday morning decided the run. Only 75 miles long, this section packed a real wallop. Long stretches of rock-strewn, overgrown trails probably caused most of the trouble but a boggy beaver dam near Carnarvon proved to be a "Waterloo" for more than one rider. Five of this staunch group of 21 failed to reach the lunch stop at Haliburton. Most of those who

did, were late and used a large part of their lunch hour to make up lost time. Sunday morning seemed to weed out all but the most durable of men and machines with the result that there was only one retirement during the afternoon.

Out of the original field, only 15 men finished the 400 mile course. The only team to finish was the Helka Norton Indian team of Dearborn, Mich. All who finished deserve to be congratulated. Those who won trophies certainly demonstrated skill and endurance of championship calibre.

The lay-out crew was very pleased with the way in which the event ran off. The enthusiasm and sportsmanship shown by all those participating were most gratifying. We wish to thank two well-known Toronto motorcycle dealers, Russell Winter and Firth's Motorcycles for their generous contributions. Thanks also to the staff at Gold Rock and to Bill Hastings who provided films and the PA system. Finally we wish to acknowledge the efforts of our faithful band of checkers who played a vital part in making the run a success.

The replica awarded to the Medium-weight champion was donated by Ron and Eve White of Toronto, the remainder of the replicas were provided by the British Empire Motor Club.

Planning is already under way for the '59 Corduroy Run which can't fail to be bigger and better than ever. Make a date now to join in the fun at Gold Rock in September next year.

A complete set of results has been mailed to all riders.



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V.O.C. Trial

- 1st. D. Daniel, James.
- 2nd. J. DeGruchy, F.B.
- 3rd. W. Strachan, F.B.

Best Other Class, T. Olver, Ariel. Team, Nortown, W. Sharpless, J. DeGruchy, F. Thackray.

B.E.M.C. Shell Trial

- 1st. 3 places as above.

Best Other Class, R. Jackson, B.S.A. Team, B.E.M.C., D. Daniel, R. Jackson, R. White.